

DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an amendment filed on 7/28/2009 and authorized examiner's amendment dated 10/16/2009.
- Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-21, and 59 are now allowed; claims 9, 17, 22-58 have been canceled.

Response to Arguments

- Applicant's arguments, see pages 12-13, filed 7/28/2009, with respect to claims 1, 20, and 21 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection of claims 1, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Michael Guzniczak on 10/16/2009.

Please amend the following claim:

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said ~~display~~ selecting unit further selects, from among the first kind and the second kind, a kind that the amount of image which has been processed is closer to the upper limit value.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-21, and 59 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-20 respectively.
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combined cited prior arts (Iwase et al (US 6724492); Kato et al (US 5956557) of record teach an image processing apparatus for managing upper level limits of number of copies allowed with respect to user's ID, but fail to teach and/or suggest "a fourth setting unit configured to set a numeric value for the

image processing mode set by said first setting unit; and a second notification unit configured to calculate a minimum value of the number of images which would be processed based on the image processing mode set by said first setting unit and the numeric value set by said fourth setting unit and, in a case where the managed amount of image would exceed the upper limit value if the image process starts in the setting maintained as it is, notifies the user that the managed amount of image will reach its upper limit value” as recited in claim 1.

- Claims 20-21 recite the same or similar claim limitations and/or features as recited in independent claim 1 and therefore are found to be allowable for the same or similar reasons as stated and mentioned above in independent claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THIERRY L. PHAM whose telephone number is (571)272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thierry L Pham/

Examiner, Art Unit 2625